

Message Text

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FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4237
SECDEF WASHDC
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SECDEF FOR ASD(C3I), ASD(ISA), DDR&E; DA FOR MGEN RIENZI

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, ETEL, MARR
SUBJECT: INTEROPERABILITY OF TACTICAL AREA COMMUNICATIONS

1. WE PROVIDE BELOW A DRAFT OF THE TEXT THAT ASYG (DEFENSE SUPPORT) LABERGE INTENDS TO DISTRIBUTE TO THE NADREPS THIS WEEK ON SUBJECT ABOVE. THE LAST SENTENCE IN PARA 6 WILL PROBABLY BE DELETED IN THE FINAL VERSION (PARENTHESES SUPPLIED).

2. WE AGREE WITH THE APPROACH SUGGESTED IN THE TEXT AND RECOMMEND WASHINGTON CONCURRENCE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY 23 JUNE 1977.

4. BEGIN TEXT: REFERENCES: (A) C-M(76)70(REVISED), DATED 29 NOV 1976; (B) SG/77/237, DATED 6 APR 1977 (NOTAL); (C) C-M(77)27(REVISED), DATED 5 MAY 1977; (D) PO/77/86, DATED
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27 MAY 1977.

AS ALL ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE, ONE OF THE ACTIONS TAKEN, ON ITS FORMATION, BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON EQUIPMENT INTEROPERABILITY WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS (WG/1) TO ASSESS FOUR POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO THE TIMELY ACHIEVEMENT OF THE INTEROPERABILITY OF TAC-

TICAL AREA COMMUNICATIONS. AS A RESULT OF THESE ASSESSMENTS THE AD HOC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED, IN ITS SECOND REPORT TO COUNCIL IN MINISTERIAL SESSION (REF A), THAT NATIONS SHOULD CONTINUE WITH THEIR PRESENT PROGRAMMES FOR TACTICAL AREA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, INCLUDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARD INTERFACE DEVICES, AND THAT THEY SHOULD, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT CURRENT COOPERATIVE EFFORTS, DEVELOP COMMON STANDARDS OR CRITERIA TO IMPROVE INTEROPERABILITY IN THE LONGER TERM. THE COMMITTEE ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT NATIONS SHOULD TAKE EARLY STEPS TOWARDS THE ADOPTION OF A COMMON REPLACEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE FUTURE OR AT LEAST SYSTEMS DESIGNED TO COMMON CRITERIA. ALTHOUGH NOT MENTIONED IN THE REPORT, THE REPLACEMENT SYSTEM OR SYSTEMS WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED BEFORE 1995 OR, FOR SOME NATIONS, EVEN LATER.

2. AT THEIR MEETINGS IN DECEMBER 1976, THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AGREED TO TAKE THE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS AND THE DEFENCE MINISTERS ENDORSED THEM AND AGREED TO SUPPORT THEM. THE AD HOC COMMITTEE SUBSEQUENTLY REFERRED TO THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, THE CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS (CNAD) AND THE NATO JOINT COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS COMMITTEE (NJCEC) A PROGRAMME OF WORK TO IMPLEMENT THE MINISTERIAL AGREEMENTS (REF B). THE CNAD AND THE NJCEC HAVE SINCE DIRECTED THE TRI-SERVICE GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (TSGCEE) AND NICSMA, RESPECTIVELY, TO UNDERTAKE THE TASKS DETAILED IN THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND THE APPROVAL OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE TO THE PROGRAMME IS CURRENTLY BEING SOUGHT BY THE IMS.

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3. AT THEIR NEXT MEETING, IN MAY OF THIS YEAR, THE DEFENCE MINISTERS TOOK NOTE OF A REPORT ON THE INTEROPERABILITY AND SECURITY OF MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS IN NATO (REF C) WHICH, AMONGST OTHER THINGS, DESCRIBED THE SITUATION I HAVE OUTLINED ABOVE CONCERNING TACTICAL AREA COMMUNICATIONS. HOWEVER, WHILST SHARING THE GENERAL AGREEMENT TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THIS REPORT, THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF DEFENCE EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH THE SITUATION CONCERNING TACTICAL AREA COMMUNICATIONS AND PROPOSED THAT, TO EXPEDITE THE INTEROPERABILITY OF THESE COMMUNICATIONS, NATIONS SHOULD CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF A CENTRALLY MANAGED AND COMMONLY FUNDED PROGRAMME FOR A TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND THE EXPANSION OF NICSMA TO INCLUDE THE MANAGEMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROCUREMENT OF THE SYSTEM. THE MINISTERS AGREED TO INSTRUCT THE DPC IN PERMANENT SESSION, AS A MATTER OF URGENCY, TO EXAMINE THE UNITED STATES PROPOSAL IN DETAIL, MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO OBTAIN THE VIEWS OF THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES.

4. I HAVE SINCE RECEIVED THE ATTACHED LETTER FROM THE UNITED STATES NADREP, FROM WHICH IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE US ARE SEEKING A NEW AND RADICAL APPROACH TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF TACTICAL AREA COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY BUT ARE LEAVING MORE OPEN THE NATURE OF THAT APPROACH THAN THE SECDEF PROPOSAL SEEMED TO INDICATE. IT ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THE TSGCEE AND THE NJCEC (REPRESENTED BY NICSMA) SHOULD JOINTLY PREPARE A REPORT ON THE PROPOSAL AND THAT THESE TWO BODIES SHOULD BE SUPPORTED IN THEIR TASK BY AN AD HOC GROUP, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF NATIONAL DELEGATIONS AND AUGMENTED AS NECESSARY BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM CAPITALS, WHICH

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WOULD EXPLORE THE UNITED STATES INITIATIVE IN DETAIL.

5. I BELIEVE THAT THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON INTEROPERABILITY SHOULD BE ASKED TO GIVE ITS VIEWS ON THE PROPER METHOD TO EVALUATE THIS US COMMUNICATION INITIATIVE. HOWEVER, I EXPECT FROM PRIOR DISCUSSION OF SIMILAR SITUATIONS THAT THE AD HOC COMMITTEE WILL PREFER THAT THE DETAILED EXAMINATION BE DONE BY THE CNAD THROUGH THE TSGCEE RATHER THAN TO ASK ITS OWN WG/I TO ASSUME THE ADDITIONAL TASK. THE AD HOC COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON 6 JULY AND WILL BE ASKED ITS OPINION ON HOW TO EXAMINE THE US PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR CNAD TO ANTICIPATE THE RESOLUTION AS SUGGESTED IN THIS PARAGRAPH.

6. PERSONALLY, I SUPPORT THE USE OF THE TSGCEE AS THE BODY TO EXAMINE IN DETAIL THE US PROPOSITION. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST, I HAVE DOUBTS THAT THE TSGCEE CAN ACT USEFULLY UNTIL THERE ARE AGREEMENTS AT A HIGHER POLITICAL LEVEL. THE VERY IMPORTANT DECISIONS WHICH ARE BEING CALLED CANNOT EASILY BE ACHIEVED IN THE TSGCEE OR CONFIDENTIAL

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ONE OF ITS SUBGROUPS. TO THIS END I BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY THAT THERE BE A MEETING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORS AMONG THE INVOLVED HARDWARE PRODUCING NATIONS TO ENSURE THERE IS ACCORD ON ACCEPTABLE LINES OF APPROACH TO THE US INITIATIVE. THERE ARE ALSO CERTAIN RAMIFICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL IN THE AREAS OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMON FUNDING WHICH REQUIRE DISCUSSION IN A WIDER FORUM WHERE ONE COULD EXPLORE FURTHER HOW THE PROPOSED COMMON PROGRAMME WOULD BE DIRECTED AND MANAGED. (ALSO DETAILED RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE NEW US PROPOSAL AND THE COMMUNICATIONS, COMMAND AND CONTROL TASK IN THE LONG TERM DEFENCE PROGRAMME SHOULD BE FURTHER EXPLORED BEFORE ASKING THE TSGCEE TO MAKE DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS (REF D).)

7. I WOULD THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT THE INITIAL DISCUSSION OF HOW TO ACCOMPLISH ALL THESE CLARIFICATIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE AT THE MEETING OF THE NADREPS ON 5 JULY. IF THIS SUGGESTION IS ADOPTED, I WILL REQUEST THE PARTICIPATION IN THAT DISCUSSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS, WHO IS ALSO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NJCEC, AND OF THE CONTROLLER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, OR APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF THEIR STAFFS. I ANTICIPATE THAT AS A RESULT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS THE TSGCEE COULD BE APPROPRIATELY TASKED BY THE NADREPS. HOPEFULLY ALSO THE INVOLVED HARDWARE PRODUCING NATIONS MAY HAVE BY THEN ESTABLISHED THE DATE ON WHICH THEY COULD MEET AT THE LEVEL OF COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORS TO GET PRELIMINARY NATIONAL ACCORD. ALL THE FOREGOING ACTIVITIES WOULD THEN ALLOW THE TSGCEE AT ITS SECOND MEETING IN SEPTEMBER TO DEFINE A PROGRAMME AND SCHEDULE FOR THE DETAILED RAPID EXAMINATION OF THE US PROPOSAL.

8. UNLESS ANY OBJECTIONS ARE RAISED BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON 24 JUNE, I WILL ASSUME THAT MY SUGGESTION HAS BEEN ACCEPTED AND WILL PLAN ACCORDINGLY. END TEXT.

THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF THE ENCLOSURE TO ABOVE DRAFT.
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BEGIN TEXT: MEMORANDUM FOR DR. WALTER B. LABERGE (DATED 7 JUNE 1977)

SUBJECT: INTEROPERABILITY AND SECURITY OF MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS IN NATO

THE US HAS CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE CURRENT SITUATION CONCERNING INTEROPERABILITY OF NATO COMMUNICATIONS AND BELIEVES THE CURRENT COURSE WHICH IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE TOTAL INTEROPERABILITY OF TACTICAL AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS OF THE NATO NATIONS UNTIL SOME TIME AFTER 1995 IS INADEQUATE, IF NOT UNACCEPTABLE. THE US IS CONVINCED THAT THESE TACTICAL AND LONG HAUL SYSTEMS MUST BE INTEROPERABLE AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME. NATIONAL COMMITMENTS TO EXISTING TACTICAL AREA COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMS WILL CONTINUE TO PRECLUDE EARLY ACHIEVEMENT OF INTEROPERABILITY UNLESS A NEW AND RADICAL APPROACH IS UNDERTAKEN. SUCH AN APPROACH WAS PROPOSED BY THE US SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AT THE DPC MINISTERIAL IN MAY.

AS WE SEE IT, NATO GROUPS WITH PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PLANNING AND DIRECTING THE TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT OF TACTICAL AND LONG HAUL COMMUNICATIONS INCLUDE THE NEW CNAD TRI-SERVICE GROUP FOR C-E EQUIPMENT (TSGCEE) AND NATO JOINT COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS COMMITTEE (NJCEC) RESPECTIVELY. SINCE TACTICAL AND LONG HAUL SYSTEMS MUST BE INTEROPERABLE, THOSE TWO NATO BODIES NEED TO WORK TOGETHER. AT THE OUTSET, WE BELIEVE THE TSGCEE SHOULD BE ASSIGNED THE LEAD ROLE WITH THE NJCEC (REPRESENTED BY NICSMA) AS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT.

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THE TSGCEE IS MEETING IN LATE JUNE AND SHOULD BEGIN TO
ESTABLISH SOME OF THE PRINCIPLES, OBJECTIVES AND SCHEDULES
FOR PROCEEDING WITH THE REPORT.

TO SUPPORT THE TSGCEE/NJCEC IN A TIMELY MANNER, WE BELIEVE
THAT AN AD HOC GROUP, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF NATIONAL
DELEGATIONS AND AUGMENTED AS NECESSARY BY REPRESENTATIVES
FROM CAPITALS, WILL BE NEEDED TO EXPLORE THE INITIATIVE IN
DETAIL. WE WILL BE PREPARED AT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF
THE TSGCEE TO EXPAND ON HOW WE THINK THE INITIATIVE MIGHT
BEST BE EXPLORED. (SIGNED) PRESTON S. HARVILL, JR., COL.,
USAF, DIRECTOR, ARMAMENTS AND STANDARDIZATION DIVISION, US
NADREP. END TEXT. STREATR

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